

No, we are hearing none of that from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Instead, what do we hear? They say it was a mistake, an honest mistake, more innocent than it looks. We certainly do not hear any calls for investigations.

Well, I am both shocked and appalled by these reports, and I am calling for the appropriate House committee to investigate. The American people deserve to know.

FAILED REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC PLAN

(Mr. TANNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1,168 days since President Bush and the Republican Party embarked on their economic plan for our country. During that time the national debt has increased by \$1,636,400,551,909.99.

According to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday the Nation's outstanding privately held debt was \$4,228,487,022,143.12. Foreign holdings, debt held by foreign governments and others, not Americans, now total \$1.5 trillion. This is an increase of \$740 billion since January 2001 and is now 41 percent of all privately held debt.

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PROGRESS IN IRAQ REPORTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's New York Times front page surprisingly detailed some of the progress being made daily in Iraq. The article described dozens of small-scale construction initiatives or microprojects that have been under way throughout Iraq. This includes digging wells to supply water to hundreds in small towns and helping to restore historic sites that are essential to the local culture.

This is only a grudging glimpse of the good news that has been taking place in Iraq since the American military and coalition forces liberated the nation from Saddam Hussein's tyrannical regime. I have seen firsthand the positive progress being made in Iraq to build a civil society which fights terrorist training to protect Iraqi and American families.

I am encouraged that media outlets, such as the New York Times that for too long ignored the good news in Iraq in favor of police-blotter journalism, are now showing limited signs of balanced reporting.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

HONORING STUDENTS AROUND NEW YORK CITY WHO PARTICIPATED IN CONSTITUTION EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the over 100 students from around New York City who participated this year in the Constitution Education Engagement Project. The CEEP program, of which Carl Bonomo is the founder and Dorothy McCloskey is the director, takes secondary school students from around New York City and asks them to have hearings, discussion and debates and arrive at a piece of legislation for this Congress to consider.

This year, the winner was from the Wadleigh Secondary School. Their piece of legislation, which addresses the inequities in education funding, I will be introducing in the RECORD following these remarks, as well as the list of students who participated to make this project such a success.

The legislation that they have come up with addresses problems that affect over 41 States in the United States, and that is the inequity between funding among different school districts. In New York State alone, \$17,000 is spent per student in one district compared to \$6,000 per student in others.

Since 1973, 45 different States have had to address the inequities in school funding. The students at the Wadleigh Secondary School are among our brightest and best. They are members of the CEEP program, which seeks to address the problems we have in our country through the legislative process.

I hope this House joins in paying tribute to their successes.

FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the proposed Federal marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Marriage for thousands of years has been between one man and one woman. This body passed the Defense of Marriage Act, along with 38 State legislatures. Yet in recent years, courts and other government authorities have actually worked against these efforts to protect marriage.

Today, because of local government authorities, homosexual couples are able to be married in certain States and cities in our country. It will not be long until a couple will try to force another State to recognize this marriage; and sooner or later, they will find a Federal judge who will side with them.

Congress must take a stand now against these efforts to thwart the will

of Congress, State legislatures, and the American people. Thus far, Federal law has not stopped courts from ruling in favor of these illegal unions. Organizations have challenged DOMA in arenas that further remove the decision-making process from the general public and their elected representatives, barring the majority of Americans from being heard during the process.

We should support efforts to block Federal judges from overriding DOMA, but only the Federal marriage amendment can protect the American people's will from being silenced once and for all.

OVERTIME PAY REGULATIONS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, on August 23, President Bush's new overtime pay take-away rules will go into effect. These rules will slash wages for over 6 million Americans.

Since 2001, this administration has passively stood by while Americans lost their jobs and unemployment benefits; but here in Congress, we have a duty to fight for the safety and security of workers who need overtime wages to pay their bills and make ends meet.

If these rules go forward, the outcome will be disastrous for working families who depend on the income from overtime wages in order to live. Hardworking mothers and fathers in my hometown of Los Angeles will see their workplace more than their homes, their bosses more than their families as they are forced to work longer hours for less pay.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous for Congress to deny overtime pay to the nurses, policemen, secretaries and every other person who works for a living, while the administration rewards millionaires and big corporations with tax breaks. Slashing overtime wages is another example of this administration's disregard for the well-being of the middle class.

INVESTIGATION OF SANDY BERGER

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger, has admitted to removing highly classified terrorism documents from a secure room during preparations for the September 11 Commission hearings.

According to reports, Mr. Berger knowingly, and this is an arrogant, total disregard of the law, knowingly removed handwritten notes he had made while reading classified documents by sticking them in his jacket and pants. He also removed several classified documents. Some of these documents were discarded by Mr. Berger and are still missing.